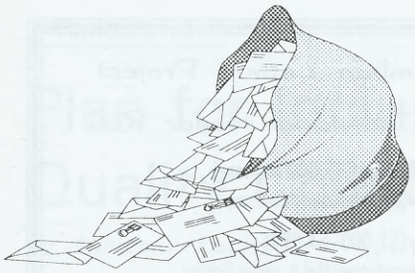

Lambda Letters Project

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Civil Union Bill Dies

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Last month the California Civil Union Bill (AB 1338) died without even being voted on. The bill was introduced last year by Assemblymember Paul Koretz (D–West Hollywood) and would have granted to domestic partners all the same rights and responsibilities now afforded to married couples in California.

AB 1338 had been scheduled for a vote in the Assembly Judiciary Committee in mid-January. Lambda Letters' e-mail alert on the bill resulted in 2,619 messages of support for the bill being sent to the committee. That wasn't enough, apparently. Koretz' office said they pulled the bill without a vote being taken on it because the votes were just not there to get it approved by the committee. Koretz decided it was better to do that than to force a vote and have the bill defeated.

The bill is still in the Assembly, its house of origin. According to the Legislature's rules, any bills introduced last year that are still in their house of origin had to be passed and sent to the other house of the legislature no later than January 31. AB 1338 didn't make it out of the Assembly and so it is dead for this year.

The easy defeat of AB 1338 is a little surprising. Six votes were needed to get it approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Last year Lambda

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Hinman Sets Goal of 200,000 Letters

by Lori Norman, LLP Board Chair

At the Annual Member Meeting in January, Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist of the Lambda Letters Project, announced that he was setting a goal for the Project to deliver 200,000 letters and e-mail messages to elected officials in 2002. He noted that because we delivered over 140,000 messages in 2000, upping the figure to 200,000 seemed reachable. In fact, the Project has already made a very good beginning, delivering over 13,000 letters and e-mails in just the first month of this year—and January is one of the Project's slower months.

Money will be needed to reach this goal. Last year the Project spent over $47,000 delivering 140,000 letters and messages. That means we spent about 34 cents for each letter and message sent. This year we will need to raise about $68,000 to cover the cost of delivering 200,000 letters and messages. To get the ball rolling, Boyce Hinman has pledged to donate $5,000. That should cover the cost of the first 15,000 letters and messages.

In January the Project sent an appeal letter to all of its members urging them to help cover the cost of the

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

January, 2002	13,190 letters & e-mails
In all of 2001	140,892 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

December, 2001	$3,369
In all of 2001	$51,289

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in American society.

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Women's Issue

Plan for Inclusive, Quality Childcare

by Adrienne Lauby

Nationally, three out of five babies, toddlers, and preschoolers go to daily childcare and millions of older children attend after-school activities because their parents work. In California, licensed childcare has room for only 21 percent of these families.

It's not easy for anyone to find quality childcare and it's even harder for those who face barriers of poverty, language, and/or disability. Licensed childcare for an infant takes over half the salary of a full-time minimum wage worker. There are 280,000 low-income families that qualify for subsidies but wait for openings. Who cares for the children?

Every year more children live in homes where all the adults work at a full-time job. This year, a national welfare program deadline threatens the monthly check that helps pay rent and buy food for 100,000 families. Without this check, many of these adults will desperately look for work. What happens to the children?

The California childcare crisis, including the pathetically small salaries of childcare workers, has been with us for at least three decades. It can be resolved within the next three years. In 1999, California's gross state product exceeded $1.2 trillion, making it one of the world's largest economies. We can care for California's children.

How? Over this legislative season, the Lambda Letters Project will support several bills to improve pieces of the existing childcare system.

We begin by recommending a look at the entire system. SB 390, A Master Plan for Childcare (by Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk), will involve agencies,

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HIV/AIDS Issue

Support a Back-to-Work Bill

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

This month we ask that you write to Governor Davis urging his support of AB 925, a bill that would allow more disabled working people to buy into Medi-Cal healthcare insurance even though they have gone back to work.

More and more, HIV/AIDS is a manageable, chronic disease. The life expectancy of those infected with HIV has grown longer and longer as new medications have been found to keep the infection in check. Many people with HIV, who had to quit work because of the disease, are now well enough again to return to work.

There is a problem, however. While they were disabled and unable to work, they qualified for Medi-Cal, which paid for their medical care. People diagnosed with AIDS automatically qualify for Medi-Cal. However, as the program was originally designed, people who go back to work lose their Medi-Cal benefits. People with AIDS who went back to work often found they could not get replacement healthcare coverage or could not afford the coverage that they could get.

In 1999 California adopted AB 155, which allows disabled people who are working to qualify for Medi-Cal as long as they earn less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level. They pay relatively modest premiums for this coverage. AB 925 would let disabled people earn up to 450 percent of the federal poverty level and still qualify for Medi-Cal.

How much is that? According to the Federal Register, the federal poverty level for 2001 (for one person) is $716 per month. Any single person earning less than that is below the federal poverty level. Therefore, 250 percent of the federal poverty level is $1,790 per month and 450 percent of that level is $3,222 per month.

Why is AB 925 so important? We want to help people with AIDS return to work if they are able to do so. Many of them will find it difficult to get any health insurance to replace Medi-Cal. Those that can do so will discover that it is very expensive. Yet under current

Continued on page 11

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issue

Keep Church and State Separate

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Last month Senator Ray Haynes (R–Riverside) introduced a bill that raises the possibility of state-funded bigotry and discrimination. The bill, SB 1280, would allow state and local governments in California to grant funds to churches and other faith-based organizations. The money would be used to provide a variety of social services. For example, the services could include food, housing, and clothing for the homeless.

On its surface, the bill seems like a good idea. However, there is more than a little possibility that some fundamentalist churches might make use of the funds to further discrimination and prejudice against the queer community or to oppose a woman's right to choose. The bill does contain provisions that appear designed to prevent this possibility. For example, churches could not require attendance at worship services and they could not require acceptance of a particular religion as a condition of receiving government-funded services. And the funds are not to be used for religious purposes.

Even so, there are dangers inherent in the bill. Some churches are already providing social services to needy people and are doing so at the church's own expense. Getting government support may free up more of the church's own resources for use in preaching and proselytizing their moral views. In many cases those views may include bigotry towards the queer community and opposition to a woman's right to choose.

In addition, it's natural for a needy person to be grateful to a church that helps them in time of need. There would be a natural tendency to look favorably on the moral views of the church giving that assistance. People might feel that adopting the church's view increases the chance of getting continuing assistance from the church.

The kind of churches I am talking about are those that are among the followers of Jerry Falwell or the Moral Majority. We need to keep government funds out of their hands. We need to oppose SB 1280. Please write to the members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and urge them to vote against SB 1280. ###

People of Color Issue

Protect the Children's Health and Disability Prevention Program

by Marty Martinez

As part of his newly proposed fiscal year 2002–03 state budget, Governor Gray Davis has proposed the elimination of the Children's Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP). This program was set up in 1973 to provide preventive health, vision, and dental screens to children and adolescents from low-income families who weren't eligible for Medi-Cal.

By proposing this program's elimination, the governor is assuming that most of the children covered under the CHDP will be moved onto other programs. Since the 1973 inception of the program, changes in Medi-Cal eligibility and the creation of the federally-matched Healthy Families Program have increased options for health coverage for poor children. Most of the children now in CHDP are eligible for either Medi-Cal or Healthy Families coverage. Either of those programs would afford children much more comprehensive coverage than the CHDP, so there are advantages to moving children off of CHDP and onto the other programs.

However, such transitions are slow-moving. Past efforts to encourage children in CHDP to enroll in the Healthy Families program have not been met with large changes in enrollment patterns. In addition, not all children in CHDP are eligible for either Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. Undocumented immigrants are just one example. The governor assumes that most undocumented immigrants will be taken care of by community clinics, for which he is increasing funding in his budget, but it is unclear that undocumented immigrants will not be hurt by the elimination of CHDP.

Please sign and send the enclosed letter encouraging Governor Davis to consider fully the transition issues involved in eliminating the CHDP and to postpone eliminating the program until a later date.

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February Legislative Update

In January the Legislature passed a crucial deadline. Any bills that were introduced last year, but which were still in their original house of the State Legislature, had to be approved by that house by January 31. For example, any bill beginning with "AB" that was still in the Assembly had to be approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate no later than January 31. Any bills failing to meet that deadline are dead for this year.

Also, there was a January deadline for new bills being introduced this year. Each time a bill is to be introduced by a legislator, the legislator has to ask the Legislative Counsel's office to draft the actual wording of the bill. All such requests had to be sent to the Legislative Counsel's office no later than January 25. If the request was not submitted by that date, the bill could not be introduced.

There is also a February deadline. Once the wording of a bill comes back from the Legislative Counsel's office, it must actually be introduced in the legislature. The deadline for introduction of a bill is February 22. No new bills can be introduced after that date.

These things having been said, legislators have been known to strip current bills of all of their wording and make an entirely new bill of one that was introduced before the above deadline. In fact, this is a way they can introduce a bill after February 22.

Here are the bills that we are currently monitoring.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 925 (Dion Aroner, D–Berkeley)
Purpose: To make several changes to the laws surrounding the California Working Disabled Program. Among other changes, it would allow working disabled people to earn up to 450 percent of the federal poverty level to buy into Medi-Cal health insurance.
Status: Has passed the Assembly and all necessary Senate committees. Is awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor while the author seeks the governor's support of the bill.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1423 (Helen Thomson, D–Davis)
Purpose: To include licensed marriage and family therapist, and clinical social worker, services within the scope of Medi-Cal covered benefits to the extent that federal matching funds are available, including home- and community-based services approved by the Department of Health and Human Services for beneficiaries with a diagnosis of AIDS (or ARC) who require intermediate care or a higher-level of care.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The author has not decided yet whether or not to pursue the bill. If she does it will not come up for a vote in committee until May or June.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1763 (Keith Richman, R–Granada Hills)
Purpose: Would allow the governor to declare a health state of emergency under certain circumstances, including those resulting from a terrorist attack. Specifically states that "public health emergency" does not include an occurrence or imminent threat of HIV. Would establish agencies and procedures for dealing with potential health emergencies, for their declaration and termination.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health and Assembly Governmental Organization Committees. Will be heard in Assembly Health first, probably in mid to late March.
LLP Position: Neutral as long as it states that HIV will not cause the governor to declare a state of emergency.

SB 187 (John Vasconcellos, D–Santa Clara)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Health to establish and maintain a voluntary program for the issuance of registry identification cards to qualified medical marijuana patients, and to establish procedures under which a patient with the card could use marijuana for medical purposes. NOTE: A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision stated that, in spite of Proposition 215, a person may be prosecuted under federal law for

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See Copies of State Bills

**View any state bill listed here by going to the Lambda Letters Project Web site!
Go to www.lambdaletters.org and click on the Legislative Update button. Click on the bill number you're interested in and choose "HTML" to view it.**

possession of marijuana. The court said medical necessity does not justify possession. So signing up for a marijuana registry card may be signing a confession to violation of federal law.
Status: Left on the Senate floor while Senator Vasconcellos seeks to persuade the governor to sign it.
LLP Position: Oppose.

SB 1315 (Byron Sher, D–Redwood City)
Purpose: To reduce prescription drug costs by establishing a multi-agency prescription drug buying pool in state government. By buying in bulk, the central purchaser may be able to lower the per-unit cost of drugs. The central purchaser would buy drugs for other state agencies unless those agencies can get the drugs cheaper. Private entities, such as employer and employee groups and private pharmacies, would be permitted to contract with the buying pool in order to lower their prescription drug costs. Any entity now permitted to buy drugs could do so through the buying pool.
Status: Not assigned to a committee yet. Probably will be assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. May be heard in that committee in late February.
LLP Position: Support

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues

AB 64 (Elaine Alquist, D–Santa Clara)
Purpose: To provide a state income tax deduction for the premiums paid by a taxpayer for long-term care insurance on the taxpayer and his or her spouse and dependents. Alquist added domestic partners to the bill at the request of Lambda Letters.
Status: Is in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee suspense file. The bill was introduced last year. It died for failing to get out of the Assembly by January 31.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1326 (Dennis Mountjoy, R–Arcadia)
Purpose: To prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in public education.
Status: Was defeated in the Assembly Education Committee.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1338 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To establish a legal entity called a civil union, similar to that established in Vermont. Allows two adults to enter a civil union. Does not require that they be of opposite sexes. Declares that the rights and responsibilities of those who enter a civil union shall be the same as for those who get married.
Status: Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on January 15. Vote cancelled by author. Bill is dead for this year.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1649 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To amend California's Fair Employment and Housing Act to ban employment and housing discrimination against transgendered people.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill may be taken up again this year. If so it will start where it left off last year. Its first committee would be the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill was dropped last year by the author, at the request of the governor. He promised Goldberg he'd fulfill most of the bill's purpose through new procedures at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. The department has created new procedures. They are awaiting final approval from the governor.
LLP Position: Support. We are cosponsors of the bill.

SB 1280 (Ray Haynes, R–Riverside)
Purpose: To allow churches and religious organizations to receive state and local government funds to carry out public social services. Includes safeguards against use of the funds to promote religion. Unfortunately those safeguards may not be sufficient. The funds may enhance some churches' ability to oppose gay rights and a woman's right to choose.
Status: Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. May be heard March 6 or 13.
LLP Position: Oppose.

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People of Color Issues

AB 5 (Thomas Calderon, D–Montebello)
Purpose: To prohibit an insurer from refusing to issue or renew insurance on a private passenger car solely on the basis of a consumer credit report.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Insurance Committee. The author plans to move the bill, but it may not be heard in committee until May or June.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 14 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To state the intent of the Legislature to examine the state school facilities program to ensure that allocation formulas reflect the current and future needs for public kindergarten to 12th grade and to examine and assess the needs of the higher educational system, including funding distributions.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and Senate. Assembly refused to concur with changes made in the Senate. Is in a two-house conference committee. They hope to have a recommended revision by January 31.
LLP Position: Neutral.

AB 32 (Keith Richman, R–Chatsworth)
Purpose: This bill would create the Cal-Health program, which would provide coordination of the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal programs. The bill would authorize providers to screen and temporarily enroll individuals in Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program at the time the person is provided with medical care, and would require full reimbursement of the provider for services covered under those programs . The bill would require licensed hospitals, clinics, and other health facilities to inform individuals about Cal-Health, and in the case of urgent or emergency services, the bill would require that individuals be informed about the program and given an opportunity to apply after services have been rendered. The bill would expand eligibility under the Medi-Cal program to adults with family incomes at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and would require the state to apply to the federal government for waivers to allow federal funds to be used in that regard.
Status: Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. No word yet on the author's plans for the bill.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 42 (Howard Wayne, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To establish a state-funded colorectal cancer screening program to be provided to uninsured or underinsured persons, over the age of 50 and with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
Status: Held in the Senate Inactive file. Author will move the bill once he has enough votes to approve the bill
LLP Position: Support.

AB 108 (Virginia Strom-Martin, D–Duncan Mills)
Purpose: Would make it easier for California to recruit more qualified pharmacists from within California and from other states as well..
Status: Was approved by the Assembly Health Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote on or before January 31.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 127 (Marco Firebaugh, D–East Los Angeles)
Purpose: To designate the California Police Activities League, in consultation with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, to coordinate, plan, and help implement a statewide youth enrichment sports program to combat juvenile delinquency. Would make grants available to local organizations which establish such programs.
Status: Failed in Assembly Appropriations Committee last year. Dropped by the author.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 503 (Virginia Strom-Martin, D–Duncan Mills)
Purpose: To establish a grant program for public schools in California to develop, expand, and strengthen dual-language education programs. These programs are taught in both English and a minority language. It allows English language–native children to

Continued on page 8

Deborah A. Brooks
Certified Public Accountant

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become proficient in both English and another language. It allows other students to become proficient in both their native language and English.
Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 596 (Gloria Negrete McLeod, D–Montclair)
Purpose: To require the Department of Corrections to test all inmates for hepatitis C 60 days prior to being paroled, as specified. This bill would also require inmates who test positive for the virus to complete a hepatitis C education program administered by the Department of Corrections. Would also require the department to see if an inmate, who tests positive for hepatitis, qualifies for veteran's health benefits and to inform the inmate if he or she qualifies.
Status: Referred to Assembly Public Safety Committee for a hearing on January 15. Hearing cancelled by author. Bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 788 (Marco Firebaugh, D–East Los Angeles)
Purpose: To broaden the definition of racial profiling by state or local police. Provides for money damages from law-enforcement personnel and public agencies to victims of racial profiling. Requires state and local police forces to report traffic stops and to include data about the stops relating to possible racial profiling. Specifies that such reports not include information by which the person stopped could be identified. Would also make police officers and their agencies liable for violation of racial profiling laws.
Status: Did not make it out of the Assembly. Bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

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AB 1743 (John Campbell, R–Irvine)
Purpose: To authorize credits for the startup costs of employee pension programs offered by small employers. Would increase the annual amount that can be contributed to Educational Individual Retirement Accounts from the current limit of $500 to a new limit of $2,000 per year. These features could benefit the many minorities and women working for small employers.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee. Could be heard by February 4.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1744 (Ellen Corbett, D–San Leandro)
Purpose: To make many changes to the Revenue and Tax Code. Among them, it provides a tax credit to small employers who establish a retirement program for their employees. This feature could benefit the many minorities and women working for small employers.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee. No hearing date yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1749 (John Longville, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: To require the governor to proclaim the third Saturday in June each year as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day: A Day of Observance," and urge the people of California to join in celebrating this day to honor and reflect on the significant role that African-Americans have played in the history of the United States and how they have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting brotherhood and equality.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1788 (Sarah Reyes, D–Fresno)
Purpose: To make it easier for California to recruit more qualified pharmacists from within California and from other states as well. Similar to AB 108.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1806 (Keith Richman, R–Granada Hills)
Purpose: To require the state to increase participation in Medi-Cal by maximizing to the fullest extent possible the amount of income and resources that medically needy individuals are allowed to retain for purposes of

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Medi-Cal eligibility. The bill would specify that its provisions would be implemented only to the extent that federal financial participation is available.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet. May be heard in late February.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1807 (Keith Richman, R–Granada Hills)
Purpose: To require the department to develop a form for the temporary qualification and accelerated enrollment of a child in the Healthy Families Program and the Medi-Cal program. The bill would require that a healthcare provider, as defined, be reimbursed for services and a pharmacy be reimbursed for prescribed drugs provided to a temporarily qualified child under these provisions to the same extent and in the same manner as a healthcare provider or pharmacy providing services to a child who is fully enrolled and eligible for benefits under the Healthy Families Program or the Medi-Cal program.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet. May be heard in late February.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 410 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Santa Monica)
Purpose: To prohibit employers from requiring employees to agree to arbitrate any claim arising under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. Would prohibit employers from firing, harassing, expelling, or otherwise discriminating against an employee for refusing to agree to such arbitration.
Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Hearing cancelled by author. Bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1264 (Dede Alpert, D–San Diego)
Purpose: Existing law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families. Certain types of payments received by recipients of aid under the CalWORKs program are prohibited from being treated as income or resources of the family and from being deducted from the amount of aid to which the family would otherwise be entitled. This bill says that any award or scholarship provided by a public or private entity to, or on behalf of, a dependent

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child based on the child's academic or extracurricular achievement or participation in a scholastic, educational, or extracurricular competition may not be treated as income or resources of the family for purposes of determining eligibility under the CalWORKs program.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 130 (Tony Cardenas, D–Sylmar)
Purpose: To expand and reorganize a state-funded family planning program to make it a comprehensive preventive and health screening program for low-income women under 65. Would provide funding for family planning services, but specifically excludes funding for abortion-related services or advice. Current law already prohibits spending for abortions and this law leaves that provision unchanged.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Author has not decided whether to move the bill. Even if she does the bill would probably not be voted on in committee until May or June.
LLP Position: Support with reservations about the abortion issue.

SB 224 (Jackie Speier, D–San Mateo)
Purpose: To require the department of Health Services to submit a state plan amendment to the federal Health Care Financing Administration adopting the optional categorically needy eligibility group described in the federal Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000, thereby providing breast and cervical cancer treatment under the Medi-Cal program, subject to federal financial participation. The optional categorically needy described in the federal bill are low income people being given cancer treatment, paid for by the state, but whose circumstances do not allow the state to request matching federal funds to help cover the cost of the treatment. Most of what the bill wanted was accomplished through the budget bill last year.
Status: Currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Author is letting the bill sit. She may reactivate it if any fine-tuning of what was enacted last year is needed.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 622 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To allow the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition branch of the State Department of Health Services to issue grants to local entities to provide certain dental services and information.
Status: Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Human Services Committee for a hearing on June 26. Hearing cancelled at author's request. The author has not decided whether to move the bill. The state's budget woes are a problem.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 927 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To require the appointment in domestic violence proceedings, and in other settings mandated by the court, of an interpreter for a person who is deaf or hearing-impaired as well as the appointment of a foreign language interpreter for a person not proficient in English; to require certified sign language interpreters in these proceedings; and to limit the services of foreign language interpreters to certified interpreters. The bill would provide for the waiver of fees for an interpreter for a petitioner who is not proficient in English in domestic violence proceedings, as well as for any person who appears *in forma pauperis* (with court fees waived), or for any other party pursuant to a court order. This bill would also require the Judicial Council to establish additional domestic violence training requirements for interpreters, as specified, and to conduct a public education and notification program
Status: Currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 993 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To increase the amount of money paid by the state to child care centers for the cost of caring for low income children.
Status: Currently in the Assembly Human Services Committee. It has been stopped by the state's budget problems. The bill may be rewritten to serve another purpose of use to women.
LLP Position: Neutral pending word of the bill's new purpose.

###

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Thanks to Three Members

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Three wonderful Lambda Letters Project members from Sacramento provide an example of how people can put on a successful fundraiser for the Project.

Nancy, Cindy, and Delores put on a garage sale that netted $450 for Lambda Letters. None of them actually had a garage that was convenient for the sale, so they held it in the parking lot of the Lambda Community Center in midtown Sacramento. They gathered items from their friends and from local members of Lambda Letters. They set up tables at the Lambda Center and sold their socks off. We owe a debt of gratitude to them and also to the Lambda Community Center for allowing us to use their parking lot for the sale. ###

Civil Union Bill Dies

Continued from page 1

Letters gave seven of the members of the committee scores of 95 percent or higher for their votes on queer bills. Yet when I called the offices of those legislators, only three of them were willing to commit to voting for the bill: Darrell Steinberg (D–Sacramento), Kevin Shelley (D–San Francisco), and John Longville (D–San Bernardino).

Four other legislators that we thought would support the bill refused to commit to its support: Ellen Corbett (D–San Leandro), John Dutra (D–Fremont), Hannah-Beth Jackson (D–Santa Barbara), and Howard Wayne (D–San Diego).

The outcome of the California Civil Union Bill is certainly disappointing. It was a real disappointment for it to die without even being voted on. Clearly, if we want bills like this to be approved, we need to get widespread, coordinated support from all parts of the community.

###

Don't Know Who Represents You?

Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you.

Hinman's Goal of 200,000 Letters

Continued from page 1

remaining letters and messages. We hope you will review that letter carefully and make a generous gift to Lambda Letters.

If you are not now a member, you may send a contribution and a request for membership to:

The Lambda Letters Project
4577 Park Blvd., #4
San Diego, CA 92116-2673

Women's Issue

Continued from page 3

families, organizations, and local governments concerned with childcare over the course of one year to work toward one goal: giving every child, who wants or needs it, access to quality childcare.

Currently our news is full of California's budget problems with the usual remedy of social service cuts. Nuts to that! Let's design an efficient, well-run childcare system, a system that gives children greater math ability, better thinking skills, longer attention spans, and fewer behavioral problems. Then let's tell our representatives to find the money, "raise taxes if you need to," and fund it.

Thanks to the Child Care Law Center in San Francisco for statistics and other help. Info: (415) 495-5498. ###

HIV/AIDS Issue

Continued from page 3

law if they earn a penny over $1,790 per month, they lose their Medi-Cal. Many earning that amount won't be able to afford private health insurance after paying for housing, food, clothing, transportation to work, etc. If they go without health insurance, they get sick again and probably would be unable to work.

AB 925 would allow more low-income workers to qualify for Medi-Cal. Hopefully, those earning more than $3,222 per month would be able to pay for healthcare out of their wages.

AB 925 has been approved by the Assembly and by all the necessary Senate committees. It is awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor. However, the governor has been reluctant to support it. We need his support to persuade a majority of the senators to vote for it. Please write to Governor Davis urging him to support AB 925. ###

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